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IAS - 203/69  
10 December 1969  
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Distribution List

SUBJECT: Transmittal of IAS Study on NRT

1. Attached is a preliminary study of the impact of a near-real-time (NRT) collection system on the kind of exploitation IAS does for the Agency. It was prepared at my request by an IAS team chaired by [ ] and its findings have the general concurrence of the IAS Production Board. The inspiration for it was the [ ] Report of June 1969, which opened up the question of the need to re-think our exploitation concepts as we look toward the advent of an NRT capability in the mid-70's.

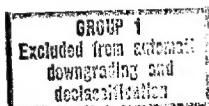
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2. At my instruction, the team has concentrated on fundamentals like the types and timing of exploitation required and the relationships among exploitation and production groups, rather than on matters of implementation like the size and shape of a building or the types and numbers of commo links. We even went back to square one and considered, in Chapter I, what is the nature of imagery analysis anyway? And, in Chapter V, should there continue to be an IAS anyway?

3. We took this approach because we think NRT will be revolutionary in its impact on exploitation. This is not because of its sheer volume, but because with NRT the receipt of film in batches will for the first time give way to a continuous flow of imagery collected in rapid response to up-to-date guidance. This being the case, the old three-phase concept of exploitation will also need to give way to a more complex set of concepts, in tune with the capabilities of NRT collection but not slavishly dictated by its peculiarities.

4. IAS' views on exploitation concepts appropriate to the NRT era are elaborated in Chapter IV. If the pressure of time prevents you from

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reading the entire study, I strongly recommend at least that chapter and the summary charts accompanying it.

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